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The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Looking Forward to Sex Comradeship.

Everybody is writing articles and essays on "Women After the War." Monsieur Brieux sums up the things French women have done under the present stress, and adds: "Women have now eaten of the fruit forbidden them, not by God but by men. They have learned; they know what they can do. The revelation was possible for them, because the man was not there to say 'Leave that alone.'" The Duke of Manchester, also summing up for England, says: "Women have found out that there is practically no form of wage-earning that they cannot do, and do satisfactorily. Will those who have made this discovery go willingly to rearing children in cramped and cheerless quarters? Some may, but most will not." The New York *Evening Post* rather gravely questions whether, after all, it is as yet ascertained what women "can do." "We must wait for the children yet unborn," it suggests, "to ascertain the price women have paid for their strain and privation." *The Evening Post* apparently ignores the strain and privation of the women who pinch and overwork themselves in their own homes; and the ghastly results for the race.

This "giant stride," this "forward step," this "eating of forbidden fruit" is mainly rhetorical. The only new thing that has really happened is the awakened consciousness of men like M. Brieux and the Duke of Manchester. And the thing which has awakened them is seeing women *of their own environment* doing what women—great masses of the female sex—have been doing for ages. Women harnessed up with oxen in the fields of Germany, or carrying trunks up Monta Rosa, proved long ago their physical strength; and women pioneers, ever since the day when Eve started out of the Garden of Eden to set up housekeeping on a new frontier, have proved their resourcefulness to be inexhaustible. What women can endure and yet pass on the flaming torch of life to the next generation has been shown. But the fact that gently-bred women have proved themselves of the same vital make as their harder sisters, is a great thing. It is even a greater thing that they have demonstrated this to an articulate group of men, who are spokesmen for the rest of mankind. It all helps to strengthen the *Post's* prediction that "After the present ordeal of the women of Europe, it is to sex-comradeship and not to sex-antagonism we may look forward."

Wages of Munition Workers.

More than ten months ago, writes a correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian*, the Minister of Munitions promised women workers on munitions of war "a fair wage and a fixed minimum"; yet these seem as far off as ever. "Something has, of course, been done, but it is clearly inadequate—thanks to some extent to the steady rise in the cost of living—to redeem the promise made last July. Women engaged on men's work are only assured a rate a little above a sweated rate; women not on men's work are even nearer the sweating line; many women are still without any minimum at all. Moreover, a number are still not getting the rates to which they are legally entitled."

The writer suggests that a general minimum of not less than 5d. an hour should be applied nationally to all classes of women engaged on war work, and that the £1 a week minimum for women who are doing men's work should be raised to 25s., and enforced throughout the country. In the tailoring trade, he points out, women engaged on men's work have secured a minimum of 5d. from the Trade Board, and women cloth workers a minimum of four-fifths of the men's rates, and a guarantee that the aggregate wage paid to the women shall not be less than that of the men they displace. "These rates are far better than anything that has been won for women in engineering."

The Need for Co-operation.

At the meeting of the Women's Labour League, held on May 27th, to discuss the problem of industrial women after the war, there was a general agreement that organised co-operation between men and women workers was necessary in order to avert certain dangers that were bound to threaten after the war. Mr. Fred Bramley (organiser of the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association) called attention to the danger of conflict between the employers' and the men's unions, in which the interests of the women would not be considered as of primary importance, and the danger of conflict between the employed women and the men who would return after the war. He declared his conviction that there would be no wholesale clearance of women from branches of industry which they had entered to meet the emergency of the war, and quoted a series of cynical admissions in various trade journals to show that employers were intending to exploit women's labour in order to increase their own profits. Trade unions, he declared, had no right to resist the employment of women if their work was necessary in the interests of the community; but on the other hand the unions had no right to allow the employment of women merely to increase the profits of employers.

The Women will be Needed.

Dr. Marion Phillips urged the necessity for admitting women to trade unions on the same terms as men, and for establishing the principle of equal pay for equal work. She supported Mr. Bramley's view that women had come to stay in certain industries which they had lately entered; but it was important that they should not enter men's skilled trades without proper training. She was convinced that women would be needed after the war to fill the gaps left by men who would not return.

The Health of Women Workers.

Speaking of the question as to whether it was advisable in the interests of the whole community that women should continue to perform certain kinds of work on which they are at present engaged, Dr. Ethel Bentham declared that so far as her own observation had gone—and she had been watching the matter pretty closely during the last twelve months—the women who were now doing hard physical work were, from the point of view of health, rather the better for it. That was a matter for discussion, but her personal opinion was that the working married women in munitions had not suffered in health. One reason for this was certainly that they had been rather better fed, which meant (on the other side) that before they found employment in war work they were underfed. This is borne out by the Report of the Departmental Committee on Approved Society Finance, which shows that in 1915 the excess of women's claims over the provision made for them was greatly diminished, compared with the excess in 1913 and 1914.

Equal Suffrage in Canada.

"It seems to be certain," says the writer of the Canadian political forecast in the *Round Table* for June, "that by the close of the year prohibition will be in effect in eight of the nine Canadian Provinces. Moreover, the Dominion Government has sanctioned a measure to prohibit export of liquor into Provinces under prohibition, save only for such purposes as will not conflict with provincial legislation.

"In the four Western Provinces the outlook for equal suffrage is as favourable as for prohibition . . . The war was the chief incentive to prohibitory legislation in the Canadian Provinces, and perhaps more quickly and decisively than we perceive, the sacrifices and services of women in industry, and in relief and patriotic movements, are creating a public feeling in favour of equal suffrage too strong to be resisted."

A True Story.

We were waiting in a queue for the motor-omnibus to take us back to London. Twilight was gathering in the market-place, and we were tired, so I did not notice any of my neighbours till a clear young voice, with a slight, unfamiliar accent, was heard saying: "We are going to give *our* women the vote in Canada," and, turning, I saw a tall, bronzed soldier in the khaki uniform of a Canadian regiment that bears a glorious name. He was talking with an oldish inhabitant with grey whiskers. The oldish inhabitant hardly seemed to know what to make of the remark, but at last he seemed to think it deserved a broad grin, and cackled out cheerfully, "He! he! he!" But the young soldier went on: "Yes, we are going to give our women the vote after all they have done for us and the country during this war." . . . The omnibus started off, and the oldish inhabitant was left behind, musing in the dusty market-place, perhaps on the strange decay of taste in matter for tap-room mirth.

A Conversion, Another True Story.

He was the director of a very big iron works in the North, a life-long opponent of Women's Suffrage, a man whose will seemed to have been forged at "the works." So, when the works came to be "controlled," and he was told that his labour must be diluted with women-workers, he opposed the innovation with all the stubborn strength of his fiery old age. Here is his own version:—

"I didn't *like* women, for one thing; and they can't handle the heavy shells," I told them.

"But they are handling the heavy shells at Somewhere!" says the Government man.

"Well, there wasn't any answer to that, was there?" he chuckled; and then he went on to say how he had taken on women, paying them the same piece-rates as the men, "and the women, every one of them, are earning more than the men. And the more of them I get the better I shall be pleased, my dear."

"And you can take my word for it, my dear, *the women are going to pull the country through this war, and they can have all my votes at the next election!*"

How Californian Women Vote.

"To-day, May 2nd, is Presidential Primary Day in this State," writes Miss Alice Riggs Hunt, Vice-Chairman of the Manhattan 15th Assembly District for the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, who is now travelling in California. "Walking down the principal street of Los Angeles, I naturally thought I would have no difficulty in locating those disgraceful scenes given out by the anti-Suffragists as always accompanying elections in Woman Suffrage States. I scrutinised carefully every dirty little shop, expecting to see disorderly groups of women 'pestiferously nagging' prospective men voters. After walking blocks without discovering any such sights, I appealed to the traffic police to show me the polling places. He directed me to the City Hall, where I met perfectly womanly women voters giving their names to the clerks of election. 'Do many women vote?' said I. 'Just about as many as men, in spite of the fact that there are many more men than women here.' While we were in Pasadena we noticed a gentleman tacking up a large sign on the piazza of a house. Stepping up to read, we saw it indicated a polling place. The gentlemanly sign-tacker then fell into sympathetic conversation with us on the 'queerness of the men of New York State, who won't let women vote.' 'Do women here take much interest?' we asked. He gave us a scornful look as he said: 'Why, even more women than men vote around here. They're very much interested, and I hope you get the vote soon in New York.'"

Adding to Our Food Supply.

A correspondent sends us particulars of a plan started by some ladies in Godalming for utilising waste ground. They have obtained permission to cultivate the kitchen garden of an empty house, and are now busy planting potatoes where a few days ago a mass of weeds flourished. The plan is to get the work done by volunteers and sell the produce, any profit made, after defraying expenses, to be given to the Red Cross or to some war charity. If this plan were adopted all over the country a considerable amount of garden produce could be raised with very little expense. Helpers are being invited, and the work offers a good opportunity for women who are only able to spare a few hours daily.

For women of good physique, able to give up their whole time to work upon the land, there are more strenuous tasks. The Women's National Land Service Corps (50, Upper Baker Street, W.) is appealing for 2,000 educated women to work upon farms, the women already trained by the Corps having fully proved their value and met with keen appreciation. "Farmers all over the country," says Mrs. Roland Wilkins, Chairman of the Corps, "are now asking for educated women. Experience during the last few months has shown that women of this type, when carefully chosen and placed, have proved themselves invaluable, not only because of the actual manual work they do, but because they have been the means of bringing out the village women in many districts where for various reasons they were holding back, and of causing farmers, who had previously refused to use the services of local women who had registered, finally to avail themselves of this source of labour. To put it shortly, one educated woman, by her mere example and encouragement, and powers of organisation, has been the means of making available twenty village women, at the same time as she herself is also doing farm work."

The Sea Fight of the North Reef.

Only a brief mention can be made here of the great historic fight at sea of May 31st, when the German High Sea Fleet emerged in strength to challenge a portion only of the British Fleet; of how gloriously Admiral Beatty's unsupported cruisers barred their way, and held them at bay till the Grand Fleet could come up, when the enemy determined to break away and make for port, and to conceal their tale of losses by forbidding all access to Wilhelmshaven.

The news of the loss of the *Hampshire*, with Lord Kitchener and his Staff, off the Orkneys, only reaches us as we go to press. "It was not a fitting death for *him*," said a speaker who expressed the first feeling of many as they read the news. But, in a sense, it was a fitting death, for the great soldier died at his post and on the last of many missions undertaken for his King and country.

MATERNITY.

(Lines written after reading "Letters from Working-women," published by the Women's Co-operative Guild.)

Who is this spectre, thin and pale,
With hollow cheeks and heavy eyes;
Youthful in years, and yet so frail,
That hopelessly she tries
To take her burden up again,
With all the care, and all the pain?

She is a mother of our race;
The babe she bore is of our kin;
Her misery is our disgrace;
Her ceaseless toil our sin:
We pass by on the other side—
And so, once more, is Christ denied.

Ella Fuller Maitland.

"A Shadowy Page of Economic History."

BY MRS. STOCKS.

" Jemand muss sparen, aber Niemand darf verhungern," is the war motto of the German *hausfrau*. But between *sparen* and *verhungern* lies a multitude of worry, from the trivial inconvenience of meatless days and war bread, to the genuine distress which is reflected in the growing burden of Berlin school feeding expenses, in the dreary hour-long waits outside dairies and butchers' shops, and in the repeated market scenes which filter through neutral agencies into this country in the more dignified guise of street riots and cavalry charges.

It is all very shadowy, this life of a nation, which to many of us once seemed so much a part of our own lives, and our impressions of it are apt to vary like the weather, between the grim or rosy descriptions by neutral observers, and such bare facts as can be gleaned from casual perusal of the censor-ridden German press. If we pin our faith to the last source, however, remembering always that an anonymous press correspondent may be a Government department in disguise, and that the shadow of the censor lies across our page, there emerges a more or less coherent sequence of developments in everyday German economic life since the veil of war descended upon it.

Whatever sensations those memorable closing days of July, 1914, brought to the fire-eating German public, to the bread-eating and food-buying German public they brought little short of panic. The price increase which had made itself felt since the first threatenings of international complication, was violently intensified on July 31st; food shops were besieged by anxious *hausfrauen*, and by the following day many shops had closed down altogether, or were refusing further orders. Such was the scramble to secure supplies, that prices rose in many cases 100 per cent., and it was a matter of proud boast to the Berlin Co-operative Society that during the mad rush of August 1st, every one of its 125 branches had been able to weather the storm and remain open.

During the succeeding days, a number of municipal authorities appear to have followed the example of the *hausfrauen*, and we read of large food purchases and the addition to public food stocks already accumulated in view of possible hard times. But the German bureaucracy would not have been the German bureaucracy if its economic activities had stopped short at local food purchases. On the evening of August 1st notices were posted throughout Berlin, prohibiting the export of foodstuffs from the Greater-Berlin area; on August 3rd salt and meal prices were officially fixed in Berlin, in view of the rich harvest which was being reaped by the wily retailer of such commodities, while on August 4th the famous Imperial maximum price order was issued, which empowers the Imperial Chancellor, and in certain cases the local authorities, to fix the prices of " articles of daily consumption," and which forms the basis of the present inextricable tangle of imperial, state, and local price legislation.

Meanwhile, the housekeeping public was beginning to recover from those fears which had impelled it anxiously from shop to shop on August 1st. Germany, it appeared, was well provided after all; the current harvest was satisfactory; the entire rye harvest, of which well over a million tons would normally be exported, was still in the country, and would compensate, with judicious substitutions, for the deficit in imported wheat; some twenty-five million pigs existed in the country, with an estimated increase at the rate of four million a year, while the normal import of beef from Denmark might reasonably be expected to continue; as regards potatoes, Germany might count on being self-sufficient, with her harvest of fifty million tons; finally, as to sugar, in view of export dislocations, a veritable glut might be anticipated, the only fear being a sharp price decline.

Small wonder, therefore, that in view of such assurances public opinion turned upon those same dealers whom it suspected of having spent golden days under the beneficent sway of the laws of supply and demand, and slowly but surely the cry of " down with food usurers " supplanted and drowned the cry of " bacon at any price." A new and sinister bogey began to haunt the *hausfrau*; the bogey not of the skeleton of starvation nor of the invading Cossack, but of the unbridled activities of the food usurer behind the counter, on the corn exchange, and in the stock market. It was such a spirit which on August 4th induced angry *hausfrauen*, faced by the demand for 85 pf. per 10 lbs. of inferior fodder potatoes, to overturn the baskets of the dealers rather than pay such exorbitant rates. " And these occurrences," exclaims the *Berliner Tageblatt* " took place in the weekly market of one of the most aristocratic quarters of Berlin."

Thus, in the first agitated weeks of August, 1914, the problem of the German food supply began to take shape, and agrarian economists may revel in the fact of agricultural protection beyond their wildest dreams—in the doubts, hopes, and fears of a self-sufficing Germany. And armed for the struggle Germany possessed four things: her unexported rye harvest and her unexported sugar beet harvest, her twenty-five million pigs, and her fifty million tons of potatoes. But against this must be set the loss of her Russian butter imports, of wheat imports to the tune of some 2·9 million tons, and, most vital of all, of various fodder imports, including over 3½ million tons of foreign barley. It was this fodder deficit which was destined to exercise the most far-reaching influence on the whole problem; for how can bread corn be preserved if every time the Landrat's back is turned, rye and wheat pours into the feeding trough; moreover, scarce fodder means meagre and depleted live stocks, and therein lies the secret of those weary crowds of women who to-day are ready to wait patiently or scuffle desperately for a fraction of a pound of butter or suet.

The task with which the German bureaucracy was faced is therefore a two-fold one. On the one hand it must protect the consumer against the war profits of farmer and dealer alike; on the other, it must regulate the consumption and promote the production of such food supplies as it can command; finally, it must discriminate between the effects of food usury and actual scarcity before it can deal with each according to its needs. The story of how the Imperial Governmnet met these responsibilities constitutes a curious record of contradiction and prevarication, not merely because the problem was a difficult one in itself, but because in economic matters the German bureaucracy ceases to be the model of single-minded efficiency known to experts of military strategy or technical education, and becomes " a feather for each wind that blows." And, as it happens, the strongest wind is that which blows from the East—across the wide estates of the Prussian Grundbesitzer.

(To be continued.)

International Relations.

At the instance of the Council for the Study of International Relations, an introduction to this subject has been published by Macmillan.* The book takes the form of a series of essays on different aspects of the question.

In the first chapter Professor A. A. Grant deals with " War and Peace since 1815," pointing out that after the Napoleonic Wars there was the same weariness of war and the same hope of future peace as there will be after this war. But in the years that followed 1815 war was regarded as the work of insurgent democracies, and the hope of peace was based on the suppression of revolution in any part of Europe. That this hope was not fulfilled was largely due to the new strength which social revolution gained from the growth of the national spirit. But the wars produced by the national spirit cannot be regarded as absolutely evil, since they led to some measure of readjustment of European peoples. Side by side with the national wars there went on the old wars of Imperialism and expansion, culminating in the disaster of 1914. But the intervals of peace had been longer and more constructive than ever before.

In the second chapter, Mr. F. F. Urquhart deals with the causes of modern war from a theoretical standpoint. He shows that any attempt at a static system of international politics is bound to result in war; that though in the past deliberate wars of conquest have been waged, the hope of gain has practically ceased to be a power making for war; that wars of nationality are probably the only wars of pure principle; and that most modern wars are not the product of simple causes and motives. International politics must be positive, facing facts and attempting solutions in advance, instead of being based on non-intervention and the principle of " wait and see."

Mr. A. Greenwood, in the third chapter, deals with international economic relations, and treats this intricate subject with great clearness. He shows that there are two opposing tendencies in the growth of international economic relations, the one pacific, depending on the evident fact that war means the destruction of trade, the other bellicose, depending on the competitive exploitation of backward countries, and also on the sectional benefits that war may bring. He urges the necessity of international control of economic exploitation.

* *An Introduction to the Study of International Relations.* 2s. (Cheap edition, obtainable from the C.S.I.R., 1, Central Buildings, Westminster, at 1s. 4d. post free.)

In the fourth chapter, Mr. D. J. I. Hughes deals with international law. This chapter is disappointing, as it is chiefly occupied with demonstrating the rather abstract point that international law is entitled to be called law; but the examples given are of great interest, and the common argument that force is essential to international law is fairly, if not convincingly, met.

Perhaps the most vigorous chapter is Mr. P. H. Kerr's treatment of political relations between advanced and backward peoples. He points out that contact with backward peoples is inevitable; that the results of this contact, if left to traders unrestricted by any powerful administration, are disastrous; and that hence arises the necessity of intervention by European Governments. This intervention should be governed by the principle not of advantage to the colonising nation, but of benefit to the backward peoples themselves, and to the rest of the world. Mr. Kerr gives a real meaning to the "white man's burden"—the phrase which is so often used carelessly and even hypocritically. The further point that "the joint settlement of the masses of races of widely differing levels of civilisation or colour in a single area is injurious to all, and that as far as possible they should be kept geographically separated" is more debatable: it would be interesting to know how far the facts which support this view are the product of the failure to realise in practice his principle of the responsibility of the civilised to the backward races.

In the last chapter Mr. Greenwood discusses international relations and the growth of freedom. He points out that peace is only a means to the freedom of individuals; and yet, without the certainty of peace, freedom cannot be attained even within a State. As long as war, and fear of war, absorb the energy of nations, the individual cannot achieve freedom. Again, peace, the necessary means to freedom, can only be achieved through individuals: on the attitude of individual citizens depends the success or failure of international institutions designed to secure peace.

Women and Insurance.

The Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Approved Society Finance and Administration as it Affects Insured Women.

The above Report is one of extreme interest and importance to all women who are either themselves insured persons or who are interested in the working of the Insurance Acts. The recommendations of the Report, as a whole, are very much better than one had expected, and the Departmental Committee have recognised that "the sickness insurance of married women, as a class, presents certain conditions and difficulties which do not apply to other classes of insured persons." After referring to the demands of home and family, the intermittency of the married woman's work, and the fact that a large number of them are out-workers—that is to say, working at home in their own time and not in fixed times in factory or workshop—the Report continues: "We mention these considerations in order to show not only the special need for supervision as regards married women's claims, but also the peculiar difficulty of applying in these cases the statutory test of incapacity for work which constitutes the title to benefit." The Committee estimate that the claims of married women for sickness benefit are in excess of those of single women by one week per annum.

It is certain that under the present scheme of the Insurance Acts many approved societies on valuation, some perhaps to a serious extent, would find themselves with a deficiency, and the financial equilibrium would have to be regained either by reducing the benefits or by increasing the contributions of the members of such societies. Members of the N.U.W.S.S. may not be aware that approved societies with a membership of less than 5,000 are now compelled, for valuation purpose, to be combined as follows:—

"(*a*) If they have joined an association formed under this section, be associated with other societies in the same association; and

(*b*) If they have not joined any such association, be grouped together according to the localities in which they carry on business."—Sec. 39, Sub-sec. 1, Insurance Act, 1911.

The Report recommends the repeal of this section, together with the provisions relating to a surrender of surplus. This is a most valuable recommendation, and one that will be welcomed by many of the small societies of a special type. Valuations are to be held every five, instead of every three, years, and this will be an advantage.

Let us now consider the means by which the Committee propose to meet the existing financial deficiency. The Act of 1911 set aside from each contribution (viz., 1 5-9d. men, 1½d. women) to be paid into the Sinking Fund. The object of the Sinking Fund, as doubtless members of the N.U.W.S.S. know well, is to provide reserves credited to persons over sixteen coming into insurance prior to October 13th, 1913. It has always been presumed that these reserves would be liquidated by 1932, and that the 1 5-9d. and 1½d., respectively, would then become available for additional benefits. The Report recommends that part of these sums, *i.e.*, men 5-9d., women ¾d., should be diverted to other uses, and that the remaining amount—men 1d., women ¾d.—should be apportioned to the Sinking Fund. A longer period would therefore be required to liquidate the reserves. Women would, however, contribute proportionately less towards the liquidation, and the Committee are evidently of the opinion that this proportion more closely approximates to their probable proportional share of the reserve moneys than that originally fixed.

It is proposed to use the ¾d. per contribution per woman member diverted from the Sinking Fund in the following manner:—

(1) A proportion equal to ·17d. per contribution will remain in (or be credited back to) the ordinary benefits fund to strengthen the amount available for ordinary claims of married and single women alike.

(2) A proportion equal to ·16d. will be paid into the "Women's Equalisation Fund," and will strengthen the amount available to meet the claims of married women: the amount yielded (estimated at £135,000) is to be doubled by an equivalent Parliamentary grant.

(3) A proportion equal to ·34d. will go into the Contingencies Fund for the general good of the society.

(4) A proportion equal to ·08d. will be paid into a Special Risks Fund for the general good of the insured population. These last two Funds would take the place of the liability now existing in the cases of societies pooled for valuation to have part of their ordinary surplus taken for deficiencies in associated societies.

It is therefore clear that the second item is the only one which directly affects single women as such, and it means that ·16d. per contribution per single woman will be spent on married women's benefits. The Committee estimate that this payment is instead of the 2d. now being paid towards men's reserve values, and therefore involves no extra hardship and no alteration of present allocation of contributions.

I think it most desirable that single women should consider the question very carefully, and should not come to a hasty judgment in regard to it. Many of the single women who pay this contribution would marry and reap the benefit later. Also, it is essential to remember that the effect of such a fund on the public health would be beneficial, and that therefore the ordinary benefit funds would receive fewer claims.

The proposed Women's Equalisation Fund would certainly make the working of the Insurance Acts more national, and the principle of the equalisation of risk is one which any body of organised women must adhere to. "Each for all, and all for each" is the motto for all women trade unionists. The proposal is also of an experimental character, and would be operative in the first instance for ten years only.

Probably many single women will be of opinion that it is unfair that they should have to contribute towards a fund that will be solely expended in benefits in respect to maternity and to illnesses arising therefrom, and will consider that the question of maternity is one for which the nation, as a whole, should be responsible. It is even more necessary now than it was in the past that single women should make provision for old age, and it may well be urged that their contributions ought not to be diverted to a fund which is needed to meet a national necessity, and should be borne by the State. If the proposal is carried in its present form—and I, personally, think it would be unwise for single insured women actively to oppose it, in view of the many valuable recommendations of the Report—single women contributors would have every right to claim, and, in my opinion, should do so, that a scheme of insurance more adapted to the "in and out" nature of married women's work should be applied to married women, so that in the future they shall not continue to get excess sickness benefit on a smaller number of contributions than that paid by single women—also the proportion of contributions by married women to 1, 3, and 4 would be smaller than that of other classes.

Before concluding this statement I would like to draw the attention of the N.U.W.S.S. members to paragraph 20 of the Report, referring to Sec. 63 of the 1911 Act, *re* "inquiries into causes of excessive sickness." The Committee naturally conclude that these provisions cannot be expected to afford a general solution to the problem. But in those areas where there is an excessive sickness rate, it would be well for members

of Insurance Committees and of approved societies to remember that if a high rate of sickness can be proved to be due to bad housing, insanitary conditions, a contaminated or insufficient water supply, unhealthy conditions in factories, workshops, or mines, the cost must be refunded by the local authority or by the employer, as the case may be. We may feel sure that bad housing is responsible for much sickness among insured persons, both men and women, as it is in a great measure for the high rate of infant mortality. Our local authorities have large powers in regard to housing, and we need more suitable women on local councils, so that they may be able to advise that the houses built shall be adequate to meet the needs of the women and children who will live in them.

MARIAN BERRY

(Member of Middlesex Insurance Committee, and of the Management Committee, Women Clerks and Secretaries).

Correspondence.

WOMEN AND INSURANCE BENEFITS.

MADAM,—The Departmental Committee on Approved Society Finance and Administration were precluded by their terms of reference from recommending an increase in the present rates of contribution or a reduction of the standard rates of benefit. But when the question of providing for the excess of sickness among married women is discussed in Parliament there is no doubt that proposals for increasing the women's contributions will be made. Another danger is that in mixed societies the contributions of the men towards the Contingencies Fund recommended by the Committee may be kept separate from those of the women, thus depriving the women of the support which they were told they would obtain by joining a men's society. It is, therefore, very necessary that women should be watchful of their own interests. A movement has already been started among a certain section of Friendly Society members, with the object of freeing men from any share of the burden of providing for married women's sickness, and if the women's point of view is not kept before Members of Parliament and the general public, there is danger that this movement may succeed

A. M. M.

UNSKILLED WORK ON THE LAND.

MADAM,—The supply of trained women gardeners, never large, has long since proved inadequate to the war emergency demand for their services. But sowing potatoes (whether by setting them in rows to be covered by a plough, or by planting them separately with a dibber) may be described as unskilled work; nor would the remuneration attract labour from a distance. To procure local women's labour I should advise Mrs. Pendered's market gardener to apply to the Women's National Land Service Corps, 50, Upper Baker Street, London, for the address of the nearest Registrar, who will, if possible, supply him with women workers.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the work Miss Pendered describes is fully within the capacity of an untrained, and even of a town-bred woman; but she would be well-advised not to attempt more than four to six hours a day to begin with, and to wear clothing which will not be a drag on her movements or become quickly sodden with mud or rain.

While on a three weeks' holiday from my work in London, I have just taken part, with a party of other untrained women, in potato sowing. The farmer expressed his complete satisfaction with the work, and was delighted to see it accomplished about five hours sooner than he had expected.

ROSAMOND SMITH.

12, Eaton Place, London, S.W.

THE BABIES' HOSTEL.

MADAM,—The sympathy of the women of Great Britain is asked on behalf of this venture, which opened its doors only a few short weeks ago, and already each cot is booked or has its tiny occupant. Our babies may come to us at four weeks old and stay until the age of four years. Daily we have received pathetic letters from young girls imploring us "to take care of my little baby," and it has been a great joy when we could rightly assent. The mothers are, or will be, in service for the most part, and will keep in close touch. Each one will contribute what she can towards the expense, and will herself make the little garments needed. (Instruction as to this can be given to them, if needed, at the Hostel.) The situation is very good, close to Primrose Hill, where a little procession of perambulators goes each morning and afternoon.

So far, the babies are thriving splendidly, but we have already ample evidence why babies die unless very carefully placed out. One tiny thing of three months, just arrived, is reported "to exhibit great self-control, evidently not daring to cry out loud." She is so thin that she will need great care to avoid bed-sores. Our Lady Superintendent is a trained nurse, who has specialised in babycraft. Three of the Church Army Mission Sisters are working under her, and kitchen and laundry are under the control of competent workers. Students over the age of eighteen who wish to train for nursery nurses are received at the Babies' Hostel, 36, St. George's Square, Regent's Park, N.W., and will be given certificates when proficient. The cost of such a place is, unfortunately, very great, and it could only be maintained through the generosity of the public. But, surely, it is especially a work for women, and they have never been lacking yet when a real need has arisen. We should be glad to name cots, such as the "Mary," "Evelyn," "Edith," &c., and 20s. each from twenty donors would support one for a year.

Any further information will be very gladly given, and personal inspection of the home welcomed.

MAUD MARTINDALE,
Hon. Secretary, Women's Help Department, Church Army.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYERS' WIVES.

MADAM,—Your papers are always full of interesting suggestions for women's work and records of women's achievements. There are, however, among us some who have passed the middle measure of life, who can only envy the young and strong and independent their honourable labour in the service of their country. Sometimes, longing for more adventurous fields, we miss the "door-step duty," which is easy of accomplishment. May I suggest one that I think has been too little recognised?

At this moment, all over the country, thousands of firms which have hitherto employed only male labour, are now compelled to seek the aid of women. Among the iron foundries especially is this the case. Many of the directors and managers have joined the Army. The management, almost as short-handed as the works, has to tackle all the difficult problems involved in this change. Is not this an opportunity for the women-folk belonging to the partners and directors to step forward and offer their assistance? They are better able to select the welfare worker, if such a functionary is appointed, and afterwards there are many little difficulties a woman may find with women which she may not like to discuss with the male management. It is necessary to use tact—not to lay down the law—and, above all, to take it for granted that the management *wish* to act fairly and honourably towards the women they employ. Some really good, capable, and wise women close many doors by assuming that all employers, and especially all male employers, desire to grind the faces of their workpeople, and especially of their women workers, and that they are always desirous of taking advantage of them and grudge them any amelioration.

There should be no advertisement. The woman who makes capital out of the experience she gains in her husband's works renders herself liable to exclusion. There is no credit or kudos; she is merely fulfilling an obvious duty too often neglected. She profits by women's work, and as a woman herself she is bound to show sympathy and interest.

Comfortably-off women do not know enough of the conditions under which their sisters work; they could often secure improvements in those conditions which would never occur to the male management, and which the employees themselves have not the courage to suggest. The Welfare Worker is glad to have someone of her own sex with whom she can discuss the business of the firm without any trace of disloyalty, and the women workers no longer assume that their better-off sisters are absolutely callous. The barriers between class and class are largely built of ignorance and prejudice.

In my husband's absence on Active Service, I have been allowed, by the courtesy of his fellow-directors, to visit their Welfare Worker and the women in the works alone, and when I please. I write, therefore, with experience. I have found the work very interesting, and I believe I have been able to be of some little use.

I am so convinced that any form of advertisement is harmful, that I should be obliged if you would allow me to sign myself only

THE WIFE OF AN EMPLOYER.

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7 p.m. Public Lecture.
Chairman: H. BAILLIE-WEAVER, LL.B.
Speaker: C. JINARAJADASA, M.A.
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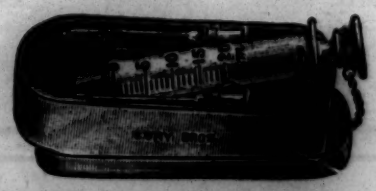
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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 50,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, and are devoting their organisation to various efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation.

Registration.

For some weeks past there have been rumours current that a new Register is to be prepared, in case there should be a General Election. The existing Register was compiled on the data and claims of August, 1913, and will very soon be three years old; and during those three years how many landmarks have been swept away! At the best of times, as the London correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* points out, "the preparation of a Register is a six months' job," and there are not four months left in which to do it before the present Parliament comes to an end.

It is said that the printing trade is uneasy at the mere talk of a new Register, for there is a great shortage of labour, and the whole compilation would be printed, not as usual from last year's corrected copy, but "set up" afresh from beginning to end. No wonder that these practical difficulties cause Ministers to hesitate. But there are other difficulties more serious than the tribulations of the printing trade.

Year by year, till 1913-14, the work of preparing the new Register has gone on steadily through the summer months. Year by year a well-organised band of workers have given up most of their leisure, and sometimes their holiday weeks through the hot weather, to verifying the lists, and seeing that all duly-qualified voters, including the elusive lodger, were all detected, directed, entered upon the voters' roll. And for a score of years past this troublesome and thankless bit of political drudgery has been very largely performed by women. To set out upon the enterprise without the aid of women's political associations at any time would be to court disaster; to attempt it in war time would be unthinkable.

The difficulties of compiling the Register in 1899-1900 at the end of the South African War—for example, were very considerable. The ordinary machinery was thrown out of gear here and there, and the alterations in the voters' lists were very heavy. But there was nothing in the least comparable to the present derangement. The ranks of careful, experienced women political workers, who have become so indispensable to the working of the party machinery that their co-operation is taken for granted, have been depleted for other service. To whom, in their absence on active service, will fall the duty of rousing the male citizen to a sense of the value and meaning of the vote? For, by the irony of events, this educative task is entrusted to the voteless half of the community, who are supposed to be incapable of incurring the responsibility of voting themselves. We are often assured that the best teachers are women; and this is assumed in practice by leaving so largely to women the work of rousing the dormant political conscience by stirring up applicants to get their names inscribed on the voters' roll, to say nothing of the subsequent canvassing previous to an election.

Is it likely that the women who have taken up national service from a sense of citizens' responsibility will be very willing to abandon work which has a first claim upon every one of us, who, taken together, make up the British Commonwealth, in order to lend their energies to compiling a Register, which will not be, in any true sense, democratic, in that it leaves out of court one-half of the nation? Or that they will be content, indefinitely, to spend their powers in educating others to undertake a responsibility for which they themselves, however fit, are deliberately excluded?

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The Small Tradesman's Wife.

One aspect of the question of the married man called up for military service has been curiously overlooked, alike by the Government and by voluntary workers—the position of the small tradesman. We hear of protests against the unfairness of allowing the man who has been rejected or is over military age to secure the custom of his rival; day after day we read of attempts to secure exemption on the ground that the business of the man called up is the sole support of his family; what we do not see is the suggestion that his wife is the person to carry on the business in his absence. Schemes for relief are in operation in one or two places, in Bath for instance, but it is not monetary relief that is needed, nor does paying the rent at all meet the situation. What is wanted is some scheme by which the wives who are left behind shall be taught, where necessary, the elements of book-keeping, and shall receive help from their neighbours, not in money, but in the results of experience in the shape of buying stock, arranging it to advantage, and organising its delivery to their usual customers.

The Frenchwoman does these things as a matter of course; the Englishwoman says, if you approach her: "Oh, I couldn't," or, as in another case in my experience, "You couldn't expect a lady to run the shop." There are, of course, exceptions; some women are keeping on their husbands' businesses, others are learning to do so; in one case I noticed with pleasure that a tribunal granted the husband exemption for four months that he might teach his wife his business, that of a hairdresser. In homes such as these the war is doing its work in bringing into the lives of the women a sense of responsibility, a pride in their homes, a realisation of their position as members of a community, the effects of which will be of lasting benefit. But what of the majority, the women who say "Oh, I couldn't," who shut their shops and go home to their people to live on the separation allowance? These lose at once the habit of work and the house-pride which is a feature of their class. Their children go to school as usual, only in another place; but their home discipline is relaxed, and they see their mother doing nothing, and that for months and perhaps for years. Is the moral effect of such indolence on her part, of such unwonted freedom on theirs, to go for nothing? And when the husband comes home, maimed perhaps, and the separation allowance ceases, how is he to get together the capital necessary for starting a fresh home?

Where the wife has the thrift and courage to "carry on," the business is kept going, and the children are drawn in to help after school hours in the long light evenings that have happily come to us, thus learning self-reliance, and that best pride which comes of "helping mother." The separation allowance appears as a valued addition to the profits of the shop, and the husband returns to a home improved by a period of responsibility, enriched by wider experience and judicious saving, and to a partner with a personal interest in their common business, not to a "lady" whose chief concern it may be to keep out of the shop. In this residential district in Buckinghamshire there are perhaps fifteen or sixteen shops; three or four are little drapery and millinery businesses run by women, which are, of course, unaffected. Two are chemists' shops, which will go on as before. One is a music shop, whose proprietor is over age. One is a man's tailor, and as the business is essentially that of a man, the wife cannot be expected to carry it on. The rest of the tradesmen are dealers in household goods of one kind and another, married men, either over military age or already rejected, or men now called up. *Among these I have only come across one single case in which a woman was prepared to go on with the business.* The wife of the local upholsterer *is* going to carry on her husband's trade.

The other tradesmen must close their shops. A. is a fruiterer with a flourishing business, in which he has invested his small capital, and his only rival has been rejected; his wife "couldn't think of running the business," and is going home to her people. B., an ironmonger, has a daughter who has been better educated than her class, and will never go into the shop. C., a fishmonger, is closing down, and his rival, a branch shop belonging to a larger firm elsewhere, will reap the reward—and his customers the ill-effects—of his wife's "Oh, I couldn't possibly run the shop alone." The Frenchwoman may be stimulated by the smallness of her separation allowance, but whatever its amount she would not consent to sit down in idleness and let her husband's business disappear.

The effect on the consumer is bound to be serious. Where, as here, the place is within the radius of delivery from the great London stores, the evil is comparatively slight, since if the remaining tradesmen attempt to set up a monopoly the customer will merely order from London what it no longer pays him to get locally. The full force of the evil will be felt in places where the competition of the great stores is non-existent, and it will fall with cruel weight on those who can least afford it, the small professional man, the farm labourer, and the old age pensioner.

All this is self-evident, or would seem to be, yet nothing whatever has been done to meet the evil. Money relief is not wanted—it is the separation allowance that makes the present situation possible—and merely to pay the rent of the small shopkeeper, if his wife made no attempt to carry on the business, would be to enable her to live in additional ease without even her usual responsibilities to keep her busy. What is needed is to arouse in her the sense that she too can do her bit, and to kill once and for all that sense of "not liking to be seen in the shop," which is the true root of the evil. In the first place, a strongly worded appeal to their patriotism, if possible from the National War Economy Committee, should be inserted in the press, not forgetting the picture papers, Sunday and weekday, which are what they chiefly read. Seeing in the papers something which concerns themselves is a means of reaching many who otherwise care little for an appeal to patriotism in the abstract, regarding it as something that cannot affect themselves. Tell the women of the tradesman class that this is their way of helping their country, and they will respond, above all, if local help and encouragement are forthcoming.

But this encouragement must be practical and not sentimental, or it is useless. If a local committee composed of intelligent and patriotic men and women would pledge themselves to help the wives of their tradesmen to make up their books, to secure co-operation in buying their different stocks among the different tradesmen of the district, or to pay a worker to come down from London or some other centre to give lessons in book-keeping or the like, above all to organise the buying and distribution of stocks, the thing would be done. Sympathy and personal help—these are what are urgently needed. If these are forthcoming, with the stimulus of patriotism to give something of enthusiasm to the everyday labours of the shop, and the sense of "doing their bit" at a time of anxious looking forward to the future, we should secure a race of wise, thrifty, and capable women, possessed of that personal interest in their husbands' businesses which the *dot* gives to the middle-class Frenchwoman, who is proud to be the partner of her man's cares and successes. The country will need such women to be worthy of the men who return from the purifying fires of war, and in their place, unless there is a change, we are threatened with a body of wives who have spent the time of their husbands' absence in unusual idleness, in demoralising freedom from responsibility, which must react upon their children and the homes of the future. Even the possible risk of failure to carry on would be a trifling evil compared with this; nor, indeed, given sound advice and willing help, should this be a bugbear if the wives can only be brought to realise that effort on their part, not merely passive acquiescence in the well-meant plans of others, is essential to the fulfilment of a definite duty.

It is our part to call out that sense of duty; our part, too, to remember that this cannot be accomplished without sacrifice on our side also. Example must go hand in hand with precept, or it will be of no effect. Let us remember that advertisement in the personal column of *The Times* some months ago, headed "War Work," and containing an appeal for a lady "to help run a grocery business in the country. Husband called up," which appeared for one day only, and so presumably found an answer to the call. There are more sensational forms of war work, but none more full of opportunities for present and future times. In most cases the time is short, in some it is already too late; but before that saddest of epitaphs must be written on the whole subject, in the name of justice, citizenship, and common gratitude to the man who leaves his business to serve his country, let us who have not already done so help his wife, where such help is needed, to do her part in serving England while at war, that all may serve her better when peace comes.

K. A. E.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: Miss Evelyn Atkinson. Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary: Miss Helen Wright.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4873 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

The National Union is making great efforts to help the refugees from the war zone in Russia, and has undertaken important medical work, particularly for women and children, in co-operation with the Zemstvos, and with the Great Britain to Poland Fund. A successful Maternity Hospital has been established in Petrograd, and now doctors and nurses are being sent to Galicia behind the lines, and to the Province of Kazan, to cope with cholera, small-pox, and other infectious diseases which the refugees are carrying to the Russians. £5,873 has already been raised, and another £3,500 is needed before January; also a motor-ambulance for Galicia. Will *you* help?

The members of the National Union and our supporters will notice that we have somewhat changed the title of our Russian Units. Originally intended for women and children only, they were called "Maternity Units," but now that our work is extending to hospitals for infectious and other diseases, where *all* refugees will be treated, though women and children will have the first claim, the title "Hospital Units" will be really more descriptive.

The Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. decided also to introduce the name of our President, and with the endorsement of the Russian Units Committee have chosen a title that will be very popular not only among our members, but in the country generally—"The Millicent Fawcett Hospitals for Refugees in Russia." One of our Patronesses, Lady Selborne, has very kindly consented to act as joint Hon. Treas. with Miss Sterling, and is taking great interest in the work.

"I was delighted," writes Mrs. Alys Russell, Hon. Secretary of the Units, "to receive a call at our office from two Russian ladies, Miss Alexieff and Miss Yazykoff, introduced by one of our patronesses, Mrs. Paul Vinogradoff. They have been sent over by the All Russian Union of Zemstvos of Moscow, to buy drugs for the Russian Red Cross, and are living at the Thackeray Hotel, and working at the Zemstvos office in Kingsway. Young and keen, and speaking beautiful English, they are emphatic in their approval of our work, and in their gratitude for the help we are giving the Zemstvos in the care of the refugees. They were immensely interested in our offices, and not a little envious of our splendid organisation, with its hundreds of trained workers ready for State and social service.

"They speak of the very great need of medical help for the refugees, and also of the need of clothing, and were delighted with the heaped-up piles in the office sent by our members and friends. When I returned their call, I found them established on the fourth floor of the Kingsway Bank Buildings, in new, light offices. Here they introduced me to their chief, Mr. A. de Rutzen, a venerable Russian gentleman, who promised to do everything in his power to expedite our bales of clothing and our motor ambulance to Russia, from Liverpool to the recently opened port of Archangel, with precedence on the railway down to Moscow. Before parting, he showed me over their laboratory for testing drugs, and then gave me a £1 note for our Fund, with the kindest expressions of approval and gratitude."

TWENTY-SECOND LIST OF DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	5,848	8	1
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Plymouth W.S.S., Mrs. Barrand	1	1	0
Plymouth W.S.S., Dr. Mabel L. Ramsay		10	0
Per London Society for W.S., Miss Richmond's Drawing-room Meeting	1	13	6
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Highgate Branch London Society for W.S.	4	5	0
Nunhead B.W.T.A.	1	1	0
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Mr. A. de Rutzen, Agent for the Russian Union of Zemstvos	1	0	0
West Herts W.S.S.	5	0	0
Wakefield W.S.S. (collection at annual meeting)	2	0	6
	£5,873	0	1

The Hon. Treasurers acknowledge gratefully various small sums from small meetings organised by our own Societies in London and the country, and by Branches of the British Women's Temperance Association. These meetings help to make our work known, and small sums have a marvellous power of accumulating into useful amounts, and are always very welcome. Further subscriptions should be sent to the Countess of Selborne or Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
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Miss Margaret E. Smith... ...		2	6
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Mrs. Bamfield	1	0	0
Northampton W.S.S.		5	0
Mrs. A. G. Pollock	2	0	0
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Middlesbrough W.S.S.	1	1	0
	£1,448	18	0

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Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and *always* registered.

If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

PROCEEDS OF LAMP DAY, £7,400.

"Replace my expert men with inexpert women!"

How can one carry on the business of the country successfully with such a method? Before Lamp Day this was what one heard on all sides, and with Lamp Day came the financial means to turn our inexpert, untrained women into suitable people to take the place of the trained men who have gone.

The Women's Service Bureau, 58, Victoria Street, every week has a large number of capable, strong women, gifted with common sense and organising ability, who, offering their services to replace a man, have to be told, "The untrained cannot fill adequately the place of the trained."

"Will you train for some profession?" asks the interviewer. "The dentists wanted trained dental mechanics—cost of training £100! A six months' course in dispensing (cost £12) would fit you to fill an urgent need! The pressing demand for grocers' assistants, with a trained knowledge of the goods to be sold, has caused the L.C.C. to provide a free course of instruction!"

Alas, that on so many occasions the answer received is "I must earn something at once; I have not sufficient money to live on, even if the training is free."

The interviewer has to say again and again that there is practically no position where a living wage is earned which one can fill without being trained for it. If one has the natural abilities which make the work easy, just a short training of a month may suffice to take up the work; but one cannot take away the man experienced or trained for years and expect to be able to replace him with anyone, however capable, who has not been trained for that particular business.

Then came Lamp Day, and everywhere funds were being collected, so that the splendid women coming forward daily to take the place of men might have the financial loan or gift to turn inefficient willing helpers into efficient willing experts. With knowledge comes power and confidence—and the funds from Lamp Day are not only giving technical knowledge, but a mental strength to those splendid women workers—a quiet confidence which will be one of the contributory causes permitting them to endure until the end.

Then let those of us who helped know and remember that we did not give merely bullion on that Lamp Day—but we gave an increased value and strength to the humanity of our nation, which will not only continue through these dreary days of war, but which will be handed down to the future generations for all time.

D. Walford.

Some Magazines of the Month.

The Englishwoman.—Miss Lowndes, writing on "Women's Labour and the Tariff Question," points out the danger that may arise after the war of the exploitation of women's labour on a larger scale than ever before. All over Europe women are entering fresh fields of industrial production. After the war British employers may try to compete with their foreign rivals by employing women at a sweated rate, or enemy countries impoverished by the war may "dump" upon the hospitable shores of England "products of what may simply prove the serf-labour of women," while the work of British women in still restricted by Trade Union rules. "Does it follow," writes Miss Lowndes, "as the night follows day, that we must accept this offering of the broken body and the down-trodden soul of our sister-workers in foreign lands, while our own women are cut out of the market? It is possible to imagine the principle of Free Trade might become in untoward circumstances as a Juggernaut, crushing beneath the wheels of its car the unfortunate and the disfranchised." Miss Lowndes suggests as a possible solution of this problem

a protective tariff in certain manufactured articles, accompanied by an enactment for a minimum wage in the trade to be protected. But it is essential, she urges, that women should have a say in any trading regulations made. "Just so long as those who govern us derive from the women of the country neither power nor influence, just so long will economic questions be studied, decided, and legislated upon without any reference to the special interests of the vast body of female workers who must live under the laws thus passed."

An editorial, under the title of "Save us from our Friends," shows the folly of the idea still held by quite a number of very well-meaning men—and lately put forward by Monsieur Brieux—that paid work is bad for women. "Idealists like M. Brieux no doubt picture all unoccupied women as a group of quiescent Madonnas meditating on maternity and fulfilling their destiny by inspiring men to noble actions. This is a beautiful, but quite imaginary picture of a world in which time stands still and the child never leaves his mother's arms. . . . Only women know the seventy-and-seven little devils that inhabit the mind attuned to idleness. The creeping apathy, the restlessness, the discontent, all the small and hateful faults that we call provincialism, narrow-mindedness, vulgarity, flourish behind the calm exterior that M. Brieux desires for his ideal woman."

JUS SUFFRAGII.—Interesting news is reported this month from the U.S.A., where a great effort is being made by the National American Woman Suffrage Association towards securing planks in the platforms of the chief political parties. The Republican Party held its national convention in Chicago on June 7th, and the Democrats will meet on June 14th. The Association is sending thousands of women delegates to these two conventions, "in order to secure a Woman Suffrage plank in each platform while it is being built." A mammoth national parade is being held in Chicago, with representatives from every State, this being Chicago's second Suffrage parade, and the biggest affair of the kind that the city has ever seen. An account is also given of the campaign in Iowa, where a Suffrage amendment was discussed on June 5th.

From Hungary comes a report of a petition sent to Parliament by the Hungarian Council of Women when the question of the extension of the Suffrage to women was lately discussed. This petition, referring to the manifold work which the Hungarian women have performed during the war, as well as to their sacrifices, claims the vote for women, not as a reward, but in the interest of the country and of mankind. The petitioners claim that the miseries caused by the war will be healed quicker and more lastingly with the political help of women, and that they are convinced that women as citizens will help to end the anarchy which reigns between nations and to do away with wars.

Frau Anna Pappritz reports that there is danger in Germany of the continuation even after peace has been signed of certain measures with regard to the regulation of prostitution that have been started since the war. "In the war zone brothels were established and subjected to hygienic control. The troops themselves were kept under regular medical supervision," and voices are being raised for the continuance of similar regulations. "Women must understand what an attack this constitutes on their personal freedom, what humiliation and enslavement of their sex threatens them."

An interesting report is given of the annual meeting of the *Union Francaise pour la Suffrage des Femmes*, at which a number of resolutions were passed with regard to questions specially affecting women and children.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT (June 2nd) has a special article on "Toy-making as an Industry for Women." "The Real Value of Handiwork in Schools" is discussed by H. Brown Smith, who maintains that most children have a craving for much more constructive work of a concrete character than is usually provided.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH (May 31st).—In an article entitled "Jesus and Women," the Rev. Joseph Font Newton, D.Litt., protests against the "sex-obsession" of the present age. "For Jesus," he writes, "the worth of women lay not in her sex, but in her soul. Her dignity did not depend upon her property, her position, or her beauty, but in her own right as a human being, apart from all possible relations with men as mother, wife, or sister."

REVIEWS IN BRIEF.

SUFFRAGISTS AND REGISTRATION and PIONEERS. (N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.)

Mrs. Fawcett's letter of May 4th to Mr. Asquith on the subject of the enfranchisement of women, together with Mr. Asquith's reply, has been reprinted from THE COMMON CAUSE in the form of a leaflet (1s. 3d. per 100). The leading article from our special Florence Nightingale Number, entitled "Pioneers," has also been reprinted, and may be obtained at the rate of 1s. a hundred.

PUDDINGS WITHOUT EGGS. By L. C. Jevens. Published for the benefit of the Serbian Relief Fund. (Jarrold. 3d.)

Contains a number of simple recipes for nourishing puddings made without eggs. In the recipes which involve the use of dried fruits, the quantities have been reduced as much as possible, as it is undesirable, in the interest of the nation, to consume luxuries coming from abroad.

THE PUDDING LADY. (National Food Reform Association. 1s.)

An account of the work of Miss Florence Petty, "the pudding lady," in teaching domestic subjects, more particularly cookery, in the homes of the people. A number of economical recipes are also given.

LANDMARKS OF POLISH HISTORY, by A. Zaleski, with a Preface by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson (Allen & Unwin, for the Polish Information Committee, 110, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., 6d.). The book is designed to show the true significance of Polish history, and to refute the representations of the German historians. It contains an interesting study of some points of contact between Poland and Great Britain, and also of the later efforts to obtain the nation's political independence.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

At Messrs. Broadwood's, girl piano-player mechanics are now helping to turn out 200 to 300 18-pounder ammunition boxes a week.

With a view to encouraging interest in maternity and child welfare, The Royal Sanitary Institute are offering a prize of £50 and the medal of the Institute for a thesis setting out a complete and practical scheme for maternity and child welfare work suitable for adoption by local authorities. The thesis must be delivered on or before September 1st.

At the forty-second Annual Conference of the Association of Headmistresses, last week, the Master of the Temple, Dr. Barnes, spoke of the need for the development of a regular order of deaconesses, one to be on the staff of every large urban parish, with a status as definite as that of the vicar, and an adequate stipend.

The German military authorities have dissolved the German Women's Suffrage League, and have placed its leading members under police supervision, on the ground that they have been conducting or encouraging dangerous peace propaganda and spreading seditious sentiment among the German people.

Miss Mabel Basnett, who was Organising Secretary of the Women Citizens' Association, Manchester, has been appointed Secretary of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, in place of Miss Irene Cox, who has been appointed National Secretary of the Y.W.C.A.

Cyclist gangs of women, each formed of twelve workers under a trained forewoman, are the latest enterprise of the War Agricultural Committee for the solution of the farm labour problem. The scheme is to be tried in Rugby under the direction of the Board of Trade, and the gangs will be prepared to work anywhere within a five miles radius of the town.

"Yesterday," states an Italian newspaper, "the number of conductors had gone up to eighty. Each week four groups of forty conductors will start to work up to the number of 240, maximum number allowed by the Edison Co. The conductors work 9 hours a day, in two shifts of 4½ hours each. They start work at 7.30 a.m., and they are never later than 10.30 at night. At first the public regarded this new feminine activity with some distrust, but the women conductors have now won approval and sympathy, not only by their skill, but by their smartness and unfailing courtesy."

The Manchester Guardian gives a striking example, occurring in Glasgow, of the way in which soldiers are being used for work that could be done by men over military age, or women. "A girl who was anxious to set a man free for the war got the job of driving a motor-car for the Munition Department's official work. She worked a twelve-hour day, cleaned the car, and did a little repairing. It was hard work, but she was a good sportswoman, having broken-in polo ponies and being one of the Scottish international golf team, and she did it well. At the end of eight months the Munition Department in London discovered that a woman was driving a Munition Department motor, so she was dismissed, and a young soldier was sent from London to take her place. He had never driven a car, and didn't know his way about Glasgow. The girl taught him the work, but the car is never long out of the repair shop. All the cars are now driven by soldiers. The local chief of the Munition Committee protested with vehemence. . . . But the reply was made that no departmental motor-cars could be driven by anyone but a soldier!"

A great deal of the work on the land is done in horse-breeding districts by young horses under the age of five, when they are at their best for selling for town work. "Young horses," says Mr. Lawrence, manager of the Newton Rigg Farm School, "require very careful handling, because they are being trained as good, safe town workers. That means experienced horsemen, for casual women would not be capable of handling young horses. There are, no doubt, many young women who would soon get into ploughing if it were not for the young horse difficulty. A correspondent of *The Farmer and Stockbreeder* sees, however, a good way out of the difficulty. "Lawrence Drew, the famous Clydesdale breeder, employed robust Scotch lasses as grooms for his young stud horses, as under their care, gentler than that of made attendants, they did not develop temper or vice, but remained docile and easy to handle. Firmness and patience are the qualities most required in handling colts; but it cannot be said that the boys now working the young Clyesdales on many Cumberland farms display as much of the latter virtue as the older horsemen who have enlisted."

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At Royaumont.

Canaan Park College Bed.

On the fifth day of the mobilisation I was sent with a lot of horses to Amiens. This journey took four days. There I noticed that preparations were being made for an important defensive; all the courtyards and out-houses were full of horses. From there I returned home, but on September 2nd I, and everyone else in the country where I lived, was ordered to leave, and I was sent to the depôt of my regiment, then in Bretagne. I was astonished at thus being forced to abandon my family, who might at any moment fall into the hands of the unscrupulous barbarians, but the precaution was taken to prevent my falling with the others who had not time to escape.

After five days in the train we arrived and stayed there for about two months. We made solid defences, impossible for the enemy to break through. On March 4th, 1915, I was sent to a concentration camp to look after four hundred Austro-Germans imprisoned in France as spies. They were most strictly watched. All communication with the outside world and all attempts at such had to be put a stop to.

About two months later the regiment being in need of reinforcements, my place was filled by a still older man, and I was sent to the front. I rejoined my regiment in Belgium. There I saw the atrocities of war, masses of ruins everywhere. Hardly a day passed without several of my comrades falling mortally wounded, but we did not give up hope, and nothing hindered us from doing our duty, fighting like young men and carefully defending our position. We were never attacked by infantry, but were continually under the enemy's fire, and it was only occasionally that we managed to inflict slight losses upon them. It was there that I was wounded, on October 7th. I was at once carried to the ambulance, where the surgeon in charge, judging my condition to be grave, sent me that same evening to the ambulance behind the lines, from whence I went in a Red Cross train to Creil, and from there by ambulance to Royaumont, where the care I was given saved my life.

(Signed) Alfred Maloinge, Farmer (has only one leg).

Holborn Bed.

On December 17th, 1915, my regiment was at Belfort. After two months' training we were told that twenty capable volunteers were wanted to go to the front at once. I was one of them, and on February 8th I was transferred to the 25th Company of the 407th Infantry, and after further training we left by train for an unknown destination. The journey lasted two days, and we detrained at a place on the Marne. After marching for several miles we arrived at a little village which the Boches had devastated.

On the 24th we entrenched ourselves at Chaufoury to the left of Rheims, but soon after we were sent to the Somme, and it was there that our regiment made a successful attack. After we had organised the trenches of the conquered Germans, we were sent to Pas de Calais, where we established ourselves on Hill 140, in front of the wood of "La Folie."

I shall not easily forget the time I spent there. In the successful but terrible attack we made on September 27th, we lost many men, and a great number were wounded. On the side of the Boches the losses were not enormous, as we had taken so many of them prisoner. During this time we suffered terrible privations. For four days we had nothing to eat, our supply service being cut off by artillery fire. Night and day for a week we heard nothing but heavy artillery firing, and torrents of shells rained unceasingly. When we finally left the trenches after this attack we could scarcely walk; exhausted, miserable beings, it seemed as if our courage had gone. After two days' rest we were sent to trenches near Arras, where we spent a fortnight. Then we had forty days' rest and seven days' leave. I went home and saw my parents, who had not seen me since I left. Then we were sent to Souchez, where we took more trenches. I became ill and was sent to the English Hospital, Royaumont, where, thanks to the devoted care I received, I am getting well again.

In conclusion, I hope I shall have the honour to see the end of this villainous war, and be courageous up to the last.

(Signed) Vandel Henri (aged 21).

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	110,247	17	5½
*Per Miss Kemp, Anon., per Dr. Margaret Joyce, to name bed "In Memory of an Artist, David C. Jenkins" (Royaumont) 6 months ...	25	0	0
Miss A. Courtier-Dutton ...	1	0	0
*Per Archibald Gillies, Esq., Headmaster, Tarbert, Harris. Collected by a Pupil		4	2
*Per Mrs. Hope, to name "The Children of Berwickshire" Bed (Salonica) ...	85	18	5
*Per Miss Bury, W., R. and T. R. (£1), Employees Messrs. A. Westwater & Co., Kirkaldy (9s. 8d.), Employees Messrs. Stewart's Net Factory, for "Leven and District" Beds (£2)	3	9	8
*Per Miss Craigie, proceeds of St. Cuthbert Hall Meeting	60	9	0
*Per Miss Craigie, being sale of postcards of Royaumont	1	3	3
*Per Mrs. Caird: Mrs. Fisher		10	0
Mrs. Dobbie	2	2	0
Mrs. Bailey	1	0	0
Miss Agnes Pelly	5	0	0
*Employees of Messrs. T Maclaren & Sons, per Miss Bury	2	5	6
*Miss Turnbull, per Miss I. S. Hutchison, for "Isabella" Bed (Royaumont) ...	1	0	0
Miss Salmond (4s.), Miss Horn (1s.), Mrs. and Miss Black (2s. 6d.), Miss Thomson (3d.), Miss I. S. Hutchison (4s.) ...		11	9
Mrs. J. C. Tannant	5	0	0
*Per Mrs. Maclagan, Hon. Treas. Rotherham W.S.S.: Mrs. Featherstone (Soldiers' Wives and Mothers' Club-room)		2	6
Dalry Branch, Y.W.C.A., per Miss M. H. Kyle, Hon. Sec.		2	6
*Employees of Glasgow Corporation Cleansing Dept. (Serbians)	5	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: Employees of Pathhead & Sinclairtown Reform Co-operative Society, Ltd.	1	5	0
Forfar Girls' Welcome Club, per Miss Dow, Hon. Sec., proceeds of lecture by Miss Henderson (Serbians) ...	1	10	0
Misses Fraser	5	0	0
*Per Mrs. Walpole	22	0	0
Proceed of Concert at Braemar,, per A. M. Shirran, Esq. (Serbians)	12	0	0
*Mrs. Macleod	5	0	0
Miss Macnaughton		2	6
Anon.	5	0	0
Miss Anderson (Serbians) ...		10	0
*Per Mrs. Young: Mrs. F. W. Brickmann, towards second 6 months "Trinity Heroes" Bed (Royaumont)	1	1	0
Office Staff, Glasgow School Board, per W. Rounefell Brown, Esq., Treas.	3	2	2
*Per John Fairley, Esq.: John Fairley Esq. (£2 10s.), James Fairley, Esq. (£2 10s.), Miss Agnes Fairley (5s.), Miss Julia Fairley (5s.)	5	10	0
*Per E. Temple, Esq.: Boys and Masters of Glasgow Academy	2	8	0
*Per Miss A. Dowson, Hon. Treas., Notts W.S.S., Upper Broughton, Melton Mowbray, Nottingham Women's Liberal Union	2	2	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 13s. 8d.), Miss Hamilton (monthly donation) (6s.)	2	19	8
Result of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Caird's "At Home," addressed by Dr. Hutchison, per Miss Marshall (£44 9s., less expenses £1 11s. 6d.) (see Supplementary List) ...	42	17	6
*Per Miss Bury: Firm of Messrs. J. Fergus & Co. ...	1	0	0
*Domestic Staff of St. Mary's School, Melrose		10	0
*Per Mrs. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, for further 3 months "Devon," "Cornwall," and "Plymouth" Beds (Corsica)	39	0	0
*Per Mrs. Edwards, Hon. Treas. Irish Fund	5	0	0
*Miss C. E. Hossack	3	0	0
E. J. Urwick, Esq.	10	0	0
*Per Mrs. H. Moncrieff, further proceeds of Exhibition of War Relics and Cake and Candy Sale, per Kilsyth Red Cross and Patriotic Work Party (Corsica)	6	3	2
Miss Macgregor	1	0	0
Anon., per Messrs. Duncan & Hartley	45	0	0
Miss M. Hannay	1	0	0
Bathgate District Road Staff, per T. Y. Ramsay, Esq. ...	5	13	11
*Per Miss Marshall: Miss Curtis	2	2	0
*Mrs. Buchanan (£2), Miss Learmonth (£1)	3	0	0
Mrs. G. W. Cochran	1	0	0
*Per Lady Ashmore, London Unit Committee, result of Dr. Hutchison's Lecture at Maidstone, per Mrs. Hobbs	15	4	0
*Per Miss Bury: Kelty Co-operative Society, Ltd., A. Mill, Esq.	1	0	0
*Per Miss Bury, Lochgelly Public-House Society, Ltd....	1	0	0
*Miss E. Rae		2	6
*Per Mrs. Wood: Laigh Cartside School, Johnstone (11s. 3d.), Anon. (8s. 9d.) ...	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Portland Forge Co. (£1 14s. 3d.), Employees Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£14 10s. 1d.), Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 9s. 8d.)	18	14	0
Total	£110,720	13	7½

The Hon. Treasurer begs to once more thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew-square, Edinburgh, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
In Memory of an Artist, David C. Jenkins (Royaumont, 6 months) ...	Anon., per Dr. Margaret Joyce, 58, Catherine Street, Liverpool.
"Children of Berwickshire" (Salonika)	Per Mrs. Hope, Sunwick, Berwick-on-Tweed.
"Devon," "Cornwall," "Plymouth" (Corsica, further 3 months)	Per Mrs. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, 4, Wentworth Villas, North Hill, Plymouth.

Supplementary List.

Donations received per Miss Marshall, 20, Ashton Road, Gourock, being result of Mr. and Mrs. Caird's Drawing-Room Meeting, Stoneleigh, Greenock, addressed by Dr. Hutchison:—Mrs. P. Lang (£10), Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Caird (£10), Mr and Mrs. James Brown (£5), Mrs. D. Kerr (£5), Miss Prentice (£3 3s.), Mrs R McQuistan (£3), Miss Paterson (£2), Mrs. Brown (£1), Miss Isobel Kerr (£1), Mrs. Carmichael (£1), Given Anonymously at meeting (£3 6s.), Miss Curtis (£2 2s.), Sent to Mrs. Laurie, per Mrs. Arthur Caird: Mrs. Taylor (10s.), Mrs. Deacon (10s.), Robert Kerr, Esq. (£10), Mrs. Fisher (10s.), Thomas Carmichael, Esq. (£10), Miss A. Courtier Dutton (£1), Mrs. Dobbie (£2 2s.), Mrs. Bailey (£1), Mrs. J. C. Tannent (£5). (Total £77 13s., less expenses £1 11s. 6d.—£75 11s. 6d.)

Scottish Women's Hospital, London Unit.

Subscription List for May, 1916.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	9,190	3	10
Aske's Hatcham School for Girls	12	1	6
Per Miss Burke, proceeds of American meetings	1,000	0	0
Canadian Red Cross, per Sir Edmund Walker	2,000	0	0
Co-operative Women's Guild, Brighton		5	0
Dame Alice Owen's School, Islington	3	0	0
Ealing Congregational Church, collection at meeting, per G. Chambers, Esq.	5	0	0
East Molesey, per Mrs. Burton	18	0	0
Mrs. Gosse	6	0	0
Mrs. Haddon		10	0
Mrs. Hinde		5	0
Mrs. Hutcheon		5	0
Lowestoft Meeting, per Mrs. Corbett Ashley	6	14	0
Miss E. M. Murray		12	6
Passmore Edwardes Settlement		16	0
Per Mrs. Flinders Petrie ...	2	13	0
Per Mrs. Rand	1	5	0
Richmond Meeting, collection	6	7	6
Mrs. Sutton		10	0
Wimbledon Donations, per Miss Parton	5	10	0
Miss A. J. Wood		15	0
Woodseats Friends' Adult School	10	0	0
	£12,270	13	4

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

London Society.

HIGHGATE BRANCH.—The annual meeting was held on May 25th at the Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill, N. The Hon. Secretary gave a report of the varied activities during the past year, including aid to Belgian refugees, working parties for the local schools for mothers, a study circle, meetings in support of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and help with a club for the wives of soldiers and sailors. Mrs. Oliver Strachey then gave an interesting account of the women's war work undertaken by the parent Society, illustrating it with slides showing women at lathe and drill work, as well as operating on wounded soldiers or tending cattle. Mrs. Streeter followed with a moving account of the terrible hardships experienced by Polish and other refugees in Russia, and views of the N.U.W.S.S. Maternity Hospital in Petrograd, which is bringing new hope and courage to some of the mothers who have survived. A collection was then taken in aid of Women's Service and of the Maternity Unit.

West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

LIVERPOOL W.S.S.—A jumble sale was held on May 8th at 18, Colquitt Street, in aid of the N.U. Maternity Unit in Russia for Refugees from Poland. The sum of £20 12s. 6d. was realised. Hearty thanks to all members and friends who responded to the appeal, as well as to the workers whose activities contributed to the success of the effort.

An entertainment in aid of the Kazan Unit was given by the kindness of Miss A. C. Jackson and her pupils to a large audience at the Crane Hall, Liverpool, on May 20th. Miss Jessie Beavan, in a short address, explained the purpose for which money was being raised, and pointed out that the contrast between the children at Kazan, many of them living on black bread and unable to go out from want of clothes, and the Liverpool children, who were watching or taking part in the performance, was a very terrible one. She appealed to her hearers to contribute to the fund, not as a charity, but as a debt, a thanksgiving for the peace and safety of their own homes and children.

The entertainment included three miniature ballets—"The Mechanical Toy-Shop," "In Japan," and "Enchantment"—and the delightful dancing of the children, as well as their varied and picturesque costumes, was greatly appreciated by the audience. About £50 has been contributed to the Kazan Fund as the result of the performance.

BIRKENHEAD.—The annual meeting was held on May 15th, when, by way of a novelty, suitable to the present times, an address was kindly given by Mr. Sandeman Allen on "The Need for Economy." The Treasurer reported that during last year £140 17s. had been collected for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Up to the time of writing, £66 has been raised this year, through the efforts of the Society, for the same purpose. Quantities of goods for the Hospitals have not only been made by the Working Party, but also kindly contributed by the local Red Cross branches and by individuals. The Society recently turned its attention to helping the Polish Refugees scheme. First, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, with the Mayor in the chair. Miss Geraldine Cooke and Miss E. F. Rathbone made most eloquent speeches on behalf of the Relief Units. Then an American Tea was given by Mrs. Lowry at her house for the benefit of the same worthy object, and Miss Cooke again interested her audience. Up to the present, £126 has been raised locally for the scheme, with a prospect of additional sums.

Warwick and Leamington.

On March 18th, Dr. Mary Philips came down and spoke for us on Serbia, at the Town Hall, Leamington. The Mayor, Councillor Miles Atkinson, M.D., took the chair, and the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor W. Donald, moved the vote of thanks, so we felt very highly honoured; moreover, it was very nice to have a doctor in the chair on this occasion. The audience was very much interested in what Dr. Mary Philips had to tell, and gave liberally at collection time. The most we have been able to get hitherto at Suffrage meetings is £4, but this afternoon £14 was collected, so, what with the sale of tickets and donations, we have been able to forward £25 for a "Leamington" Bed, keeping back £1 for luck. Our indefatigable Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Hill, ought to be very much gratified with the result of her labours. She did work hard. Now we are going to turn our attention towards helping the town authorities in the campaign for National Economy.

South Somerset.

The annual meeting was held on May 25th at the Old House, by kind permission of Mrs. Blake There was a good attendance of members and friends. Mrs. Ingham Baker presented the financial and general reports, which were of an extremely satisfactory character. Miss Richmond, of New Zealand, was the very eloquent and informing speaker. A widely travelled lady, of high literary attainments, and a student of the best international social movements, Miss Richmond was able to give her audience a very illuminating idea of the lines along which the woman's movement might be developed for the most useful individual, social, and national purposes. The speaker emphasised the need of clear thinking, steadfast purpose, and high ideals. Women should neither be imitators nor rivals of men, but aim at cultivating their own special and peculiar gifts. Miss Richmond referred to the energy and success with which women had taken up work of all kinds during the war, and the much more hopeful prospect there now is of obtaining equal electoral rights with men. In New Zealand women have had the vote for twenty years, and among other things in which the colony excels the Mother Country are local control of the drink question and the care of childhood. The percentage of infant mortality is lower in New Zealand than in any other country. The speaker was warmly thanked for her instructive address. The Rev. H. S. Chesshire, of Chiselborough, presided over the meeting.

Deal and Walmer.

A garden meeting was held at Mrs. Clare Royse's (Hon. Secretary), Lower Walmer, on Friday, June 2nd, for the members of the Deal, Walmer, Kingsdown, and Sandwich Branch of the N.U.W.S.S., to meet Mrs. Streeter, who addressed the members and other friends on the present position of the Suffrage question. In the course of her remarks she alluded to the splendid work done since the beginning of the war by the N.U.W.S.S. in France, Serbia, and Russia, and particularly in the immense collections made by the Society for the Scottish Women's Hospital work in those countries.

Col. Curtis proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Streeter for her able and restrained address, which was seconded by Miss Frances Marsh, of Upper Deal, and carried with enthusiasm. Mrs. Clare Royse was in the chair, and gave tea in the garden after the meeting.

A collection was made for the maternity work amongst the poor Russian refugees, and a few fresh cards were signed for the "Friends of Women's Suffrage."

Forthcoming Meetings.

JUNE 9.

Chiswick and Bedford Park—At 32, Priory Road, Bedford Park—General Meeting—Address on Women's War Work—Speaker, Miss Walford.

JUNE 17.

Southport—At the Central Football Field, an outdoor "Olde Englishe Faire," in aid of the Polish Children's Unit at Kazan—A Pastoral Play, Shakespearean Songs and Recitals, Morris and Maypole Dances, Skittles, Archery, and Quoits Competitions, and a Jester are among the items—Provision has been made for indoor accommodation in case of bad weather.

JUNE 20.

South Kensington—Drawing-Room Meeting at Holly Lodge, Camden Hill, in aid of the Camden Hill Child Welfare Centre of the South Kensington Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage—Speaker, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky—Chair, the Mayoress of Kensington 5.0

JUNE 28.

Cheltenham—Garden Meeting at Hill House, Leckhampton Hill—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser 3.15

Working Parties.

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals
Every Monday, 2.30; and every Thursday at 8.0

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit
Every Monday, 3.0—6.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.0

Chiswick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3.0—6.0

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit
On Thursday, at 2.45—4.15

Hastings—At the Suffrage Club—A Working Party for Scottish Women's Hospitals
Every Tuesday, 2.30—6.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Leamington—Every Tuesday, at 35, Warwick Street, to make sandbags; and every Wednesday, to make hospital garments 2.30

Lowestoft—For the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit—Every Monday alternately—Miss Coates, 61, London Road—North, Mrs. Drummond, 32, Kirkley Park Road 2.30

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Monday, 2.45

Shipley and Baildon—Ladies' Parlour of Saltaire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting
Every Thursday, 2.30

Southampton—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit, at Hazelhurst, Hulse Road—Hostess, Mrs. Farquharson
Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.30

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 56, Iverna Court, W.—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals
Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.0—4.30

Wakefield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party
Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0

WELL-PAID WOMEN'S WORK.

Many thousands of women would be only too glad to give their time to well-paid war work if only they were sure that their services were required, and if they knew how to obtain the work.

One opportunity offers itself to such women in munition work. There is a very great demand for trained women in munition factories, and, to enable women to become fit for this work, the L.C.C., at the request of the Ministry of Munitions, are continuing their special training classes for would-be women munition workers.

The training classes which the Council has established are free of charge, the course being for six weeks, and attendance being required for four hours each day. Women, however, who can only give part-time to the employment after training cannot be accepted

A diploma is awarded at the end of the course for those who pass the examination test. Requests are continually being received for students trained by the Council from factory managers

All classes of women can be accepted for training, provided they are physically strong enough to stand the work, which, it may be said, is of a very interesting nature, and offers a new field of useful activity.

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